UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/642
4 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 3 June 1999, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

99-16691 (E) 040699

/...

Annex

Letter dated 3 June 1999 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier SOLANA

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Approximately 32,500 troops were deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia over the reporting period (21 April-20 May), with contributions from all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and from 17 non-NATO countries. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance by means of ground and air patrols, with combat aircraft flying approximately 134 hours.

2. The number of hostile acts against SFOR associated with the NATO air operation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia decreased significantly over the reporting period. Ground patrols in sensitive areas were intensified. Several demonstrations and concerts which were organized in the Republika Srpska in protest at the NATO operation were conducted peacefully, and were monitored by SFOR on a low-profile basis.

3. SFOR continues to monitor entity compliance with Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), prohibiting the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and stepped up its efforts over the period to discover any undisclosed weapons caches. No violations of the resolution have been reported to date.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

4. The Parties remain substantially compliant with the military aspects of the peace agreement. Tension in the Republika Srpska remains high, both as a result of continuing political instability there and of the NATO action in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which has caused an influx of refugees into the area. Nevertheless, for the first time since the Bosnian Serbs withdrew from the joint institutions in March, all members of the Tripartite Presidency met in Sarajevo on 20 April. Tensions remain high between ethnic groups in contested areas, with isolated acts of intimidation and violence as refugees and displaced persons return.

5. Over the reporting period, SFOR conducted a total of 573 military weapons storage site inspections: 207 Bosniac; 47 Bosnian Croat; 277 Bosnian Serb; and 42 Federation. No significant discrepancies were noted. On 26 April, following an inspection of the Cavarine Bosnian Serb Army site near Sokolac (in Multi-National Division (South-East)), two items of equipment (a radar and a radar control vehicle) were confiscated by SFOR following reports of unauthorized radar activity at the site on 25 April. The radar was subsequently returned by SFOR.

6. The general training and movement ban imposed on the Entity Armed Forces on 24 March remains in effect. However, training and movement activities for armed forces recruits, using light arms only, are permitted with SFOR's prior approval. Over the reporting period, 427 such activities were monitored: 83 Bosniac; 60 Bosnian Croat; 237 Bosnian Serb; and 47 Federation. The training

and movement ban on the Republika Srpska Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade remains in effect until further notice.

7. The summer demining campaign began on 19 April 1999 with the deployment of 46 Entity Armed Forces demining teams. Between 19 April and 16 May, these teams conducted 743 mine-clearing operations, removing 2 anti-tank mines, 161 anti-personnel mines and 40 items of unexploded ordnance from 65,258 square metres of land.

8. Operation Harvest, the weapons amnesty programme conducted by the Entity Armed Forces which began on March 15 and was scheduled to end on May 15, was extended until September. During the first two months of the Operation, the following weapons and ordnance were handed in: 1,192 small arms; 377,177 rounds of ammunition (20mm-76mm); 1,183 mortar rounds; 9,837 hand grenades; 1,010 anti-personnel mines; 651 anti-tank mines; and 7,189 miscellaneous items.

Cooperation with international organizations

9. Within capabilities, and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the United Nations International Police Task Force, the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Outlook

10. SFOR will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of ongoing operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Isolated incidents can be expected as a result of the return of refugees and displaced persons.